

The exterior work described in this Capitol Renovation and Repair Bulletin represents only a very small portion of the total critical repair needs of the Idaho State Capitol Building.

Department of Administration
Construction Update No. 48
February 22, 2005

Repair Work to Begin Soon on the Terra Cotta Dome

Contractor Making Progress on Masonry Repairs

The masonry repair contractor is continuing to make his way around the Idaho Statehouse as part of the joint replacement work which began the end of January. During the week of February 14-18, craftsmen could be seen perched on portable man lifts, using hand tools such as chisels and small saw-blade tools, to perform the intricate job on the south and east elevations of the west wing.



The joint replacement requires specialized mortar removal techniques to determine the soundness of the grout between the pieces of stone.

Using the hand tools, workers remove the old mortar (**photo at left**) and clean the joint to prepare it for installation of new mortar.

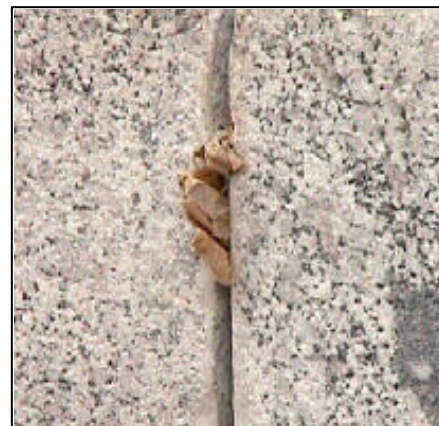
New mortar or grout will be installed in a procedure called

"re-pointing". This process is expected to get underway once the temperature warms up above a low of 40 degrees, according to **Jan Frew**, Design and Construction Manager, Division of Public Works.

The joints that need to be replaced are being ground out using the small bladed tools. Joints that are skyward facing are being protected from water intrusion with temporary flexible foam rods.

The contractor, **Hydro-Tech**, has been working on the weekends in the areas surrounding the entry doors, to minimize the impact to those using the building. Weekend access may be limited at some entry points.

Hydro-Tech is also doing some joint removal at the colonnade level of the drum and at the top lantern level. **Work should be completed on joint removal activities from the parapet down on all elevations by the first part of March.** Mortar samples have also been taken from the terra cotta dome and are being analyzed, in anticipation of repair work to begin in the dome area over the next few weeks. **(See additional photos next page)**



Workers removing old mortar have found paper between the masonry joints, possibly used as a stone spacer.



Refinished, Replaced Sandstone, Granite Must Match Existing Stonework

As part of the masonry restoration work, any refinished or replacement sandstone or granite must match the Capitol's existing exterior. **Pictures show** masonry workers comparing samples of new and refinished stones at different elevations of the building.



Top Photo: The contractor has erected scaffolding in the Capitol dome drum area as work begins there over the next several weeks. **Bottom Photo:** Masonry joint removal work is evident on the southeast elevation of the building.

(Photos Courtesy Katie Butler AIA, CSHQA)

Your patience is greatly appreciated.

Special Note: If you would like to receive this newsletter in PDF format (need PDF Reader on your PC) please send an email to **Diane Blume:** dblume@adm.idaho.gov If you have further questions or comments regarding the Capitol restoration effort, please contact Diane at 332-1826. If you have story suggestions or comments regarding **Renewal News**, please contact **Pat Wynn**, at 332-1827 or pwynn@adm.idaho.gov